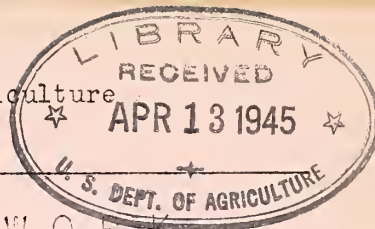


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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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High lights of this week's summary are reports on Food Fights for Freedom and farm labor campaigns and a record-breaking sweetpotato crop.

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LOUISIANA December 1, 1943

Farm labor.--Foremost activity was concerted effort to overcome manpower shortage, particularly in cotton, rice, and sugarcane fields, where largest crops in decade were being harvested. Entire field force of 64 county agents and their assistants formed first line of attack in solving problem. In cotton-growing parishes operational plans included enlistment of volunteers from churches and various organizations. Recruitment of negroes through cooperation of their ministers was noteworthy. Outstanding accomplishment was establishment of subcamps of war prisoners in different parts of State. Up to November 15, total of 3,370 prisoners of war had been assigned to 10 camps set up under direction of Extension, and 530 placed in 3 camps under private auspices. Two camps were located in cotton area, 3 in rice parishes, and 8 in sugarcane area.

Food Fights for Freedom.--Louisiana homemakers conserved 41,723,976 cans of fruits and vegetables in Food Fights for Freedom campaign. They dehydrated or froze 16,749,985 pounds of fruits and vegetables, brined and salted 252,091 gallons of food, and put up at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ million containers of meat. In addition was an unrecorded volume of canning by women in unorganized groups. In 1942 a goal of 10 million cans was fixed for women of Louisiana, who exceeded expectancy by 3 million cans. Based on record of 1942, goal of 20 million containers of canned foods was set for 1943. Again Louisiana homemakers responded by more than doubling expected quantity.

Accomplishments of housewives this year reflect large part played in food-production campaign by planting of Victory Gardens. Housewives had to grow their own gardens to do any canning. To keep project going required large army of workers, stationed at canning centers and circulating even in home areas. Extension home preservation specialist had squadrons of home demonstration agents, neighborhood leaders, home-economics teachers, and war production leaders enlisted in program. Specialist reported more calls for assistance with food-preservation problems than ever before. She paid tribute to willingness and ingenuity of homemakers in overcoming such obstacles as shortage of canners and sealers, inaccessibility of canning centers, and need for sharing of equipment.

Sweetpotatoes.-This year's sweetpotato harvest is expected to be more than 8 million bushels, largest in history of the industry in State. To protect crop, extension horticulturists gave growers systematic instructions in handling, storing, grading, and marketing. Because of large number of farmers producing sweetpotatoes for first time, meetings were held throughout growing area, besides widespread distribution of literature, radio broadcasts, and newspaper publicity. Effort included publication of wartime leaflet of 50,000 copies. Many of Louisiana's surplus sweetpotatoes were taken by dehydration plants which sent 7 million pounds to armed forces. Four drying plants in State are at ^{St.}Francisville, Opelousas, Lafayette, and New Iberia. Canning plants also take large quantities of sweetpotatoes for both civilian and war uses.

Importance of providing adequate sweetpotato storage was emphasized in formal opening of world's largest structure for such purpose at Oak Grove. Event was central feature of celebration known as Sweetpotato Day. Storage house, with capacity of 365,000 bushels, was erected by starch company, and marks first year sweetpotatoes have been grown commercially in parish. Building was designated to accomodate yield of 1,700 acres contracted by starch company, which planned to ship product to south Louisiana to be converted i to starch. Meanwhile, program contemplates establishment of starch factory at Oak Grove as soon as acreage is enough to warrant it. Storage-house project was accomplished directly through efforts of county agent in West Carroll Parish, with cooperation of Lions Club, police jury, and others.

Dairy experimental farm.-Establishment of newly planned dairy experimental farm was approved by board of supervisors of university. Project will be made possible through offer of 248 acres of land from a container corporation. Additional 700 acres will be purchased by university. Site of proposed farm is in southwest corner of Washington Parish. Construction of building will begin as soon as priorities are obtained. Complete soil survey of tract will be made before establishment of experimental program.

Livestock program.-Improved pastures, better management practices, and good winter care are contributing to betterment of livestock industry and thus influencing economic future of State. Extension livestock specialists estimate that in 5 years Louisiana will add one-third to present livestock population. Today, when concern is felt over feed situation, Louisiana is in favorable position with good pastures and cottonseed-meal production. From yield of 700,000 bales of cotton, State will produce enough meal to supply 300 pounds per animal unit. Increased acreages of oats and hybrid corn provide additional means for sustaining larger animal population.

4-H national congress.-Groups of 20 4-H Club boys and girls from different parts of State represented Louisiana at 22d annual national club congress at Chicago. Most of group won privilege of attending congress in State-wide contests held on L.S.U. campus last summer during annual 4-H short course. Others received award on basis of

PUERTO RICO
November 1, 1943

Home industries.--Six industry centers were organized by Extension with financial cooperation of Insular Emergency Council. Centers are in rural areas, providing employment particularly for young women, who are taught home industries. Center should be valuable in helping rural people to add to their income, especially considering Island's dense population of about 550 to a square mile.

Livestock.--Hog cholera outbreak was reported in several districts. Serum was obtained from States, as stocks were low. Campaign was started at once to keep disease from spreading. Radio and newspapers were used, also circular letters to field personnel on what farmers should do. Since Island has only 15 veterinarians, much activity was necessary.

Soybeans.--Soybean campaigns continue among both adults and 4-H Club members. Agricultural agents urge increased acreage and home demonstration agents demonstrate preparation of soybeans as food.

Crops.--Strong winds and heavy rainfall caused damage when hurricane passed near Puerto Rico. At a demonstration farm more than 15 inches of rain fell in 1 day. Agents were busy estimating damage and making recommendations to farmers for restoring plantations.

